

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 24, 2003. Claims 1 to 13 are in the application, of which Claim 1 is independent. Claims 9 and 12 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1, 8 and 11 have been amended. Entry hereof and continued examination of this application are respectfully requested.

Initially, the drawing corrections required by the Office Action have been submitted with the accompanying Letter Transmitting Corrected Drawing.

As to formal matters, Claims 1, 8 and 11 have been amended as suggested on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. In addition, Claim 1 has been amended so that Claim 8 is in proper dependent form. Accordingly, removal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 8, 10, 11 and 13 to 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action contends that the present invention's claim that the pores of the first group surround the pores of the second group could be interpreted as meaning that the multiple pores of the second group are surrounded by the multiple pores of the first group. The Office Action argues that this interpretation is not supported by the specification. However, even if the Office Action's interpretation is made, the specification does discuss such an arrangement (see page 4, line 21 - page 5, line 5, Figure 3A).

In view of the foregoing remarks, withdrawal of the § 112 rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,541,868 (Prinz). Claims 1 to 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,278,231 (Iwasaki) in view of Prinz. Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the remaining rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a magnetic device. Independent Claim 1 recites a magnetic device having a layer containing pores and wirings on both faces of the layer formed on a substrate. Each of a first group of pores is filled with a body formed by alternately stacked magnetic layers and nonmagnetic layers. Each of a second group of pores different from the first group of pores is filled with a conductive material. The conductive material of two pores of the second group of pores serves as a writing wire for writing into the magnetic layers in one pore of the first group of pores. By using the conductive material in two pores as the writing wire, the present invention effectively provides two writing wires per magnetic pore, and is able to realize a writing with a smaller current.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent Claim 1, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature that the conductive material of two pores of the second group of pores serves as a writing wire for writing into the magnetic layers in one pore of the first group of pores.

Iwasaki relates to a nanostructure including an anodized film including nanoholes. The Office Action asserts that Iwasaki discloses a magnetic device that

comprises a membrane layer 13 having cut-through fine pores, wirings on both faces of the membrane layer, and a substrate 82 (column 23, lines 51-52, Figure 16). The Office Action further asserts that Iwasaki teaches pores filled with a Co/Cu layered column, and that this column corresponds to the present invention's first group of pores. The Office Action then asserts that Figure 16 inherently teaches a second group of pores filled with a conductive material since the Co/Cu layer is conductive.

However, as conceded by the Office Action on page 6, Iwasaki does not teach that the conductive column in the second group of pores can be used as a writing wire. The Office Action contends that Prinz teaches a magnetic device with a conductive column 912 in a pore that serves as a writing wire for writing magnetization configurations into the nearby magnetic layer 909 (see Prinz, Figures 9 and 10). However, Prinz only discloses that one conductive column is used. The present invention, on the other hand, recites that the conductive material of two pores of the second group of pores serves as a writing wire for writing into the magnetic layers in one pore of the first group of pores.

As such, Iwasaki in combination with Prinz are not seen to teach that the conductive material of two pores of a second group of pores serves as a writing wire for writing into the magnetic layers in one pore of a first group of pores.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claim 1 is believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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